

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 /057 W
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R 031048Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7413

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 00054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN FORMING NEW FEC

REF: LAGOS 00020

SUMMARY: GOWON'S FAILURE TO ANNOUNCE COMPOSITION OF NEW FEC IN HIS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE (REFTEL) MAY BE RESULT OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN WORKING OUT ITS MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL SITUATION IN NIGERIAN PROCESS OF SEEKING DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS, AND NO INSUPERABLE DIFFICULTIES PRESENTLY FORESEEN. END SUMMARY.

1. AMCONSUL KADUNA REPORTS THAT ONE WELL-PLACED SOURCE BELIEVES PRESSURE FROM ARMY MAJORS AND COLONELS SEEKING POSITIONS FOR THEMSELVES TEMPORARILY BLOCKED SHIFT OF SOME MILITARY GOVERNORS TO FEC SLOTS AS GOWON AND SMC HAD EVIDENTLY INTENDED. KADUNA SOURCE UNDERSTANDS FMG HAS NOW PERSUADED FIELD GRADE OFFICERS TO ACCEPT SOME SHIFT OF GOVERNORS TO FEC, BUT ADDS THAT ENTIRE SITUATION STILL BEING NEGOTIATED IN LAGOS. ACCORDING SOURCE, MAJORS AND COLONELS ARE IN STRONG POSITION TO INFLUENCE, IF NOT DICTATE, FMG DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER.

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2. EMBASSY SOURCES IN LAGOS, WHILE LESS SPECIFIC ABOUT NATURE

OF PROBLEM, ALSO SUGGEST THAT COMPOSITION OF NEW FEC IS PROVING MORE DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. ONE CURRENT RUMOR ALLEGES THAT SOME MILITARY GOVERNORS REGARD SHIFT TO FEC AS DEMOTION AND HAVE BEEN RESISTING APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONERS, WHILE OTHERS SPEAK MORE GENERALLY OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY GOWON IN GETTING PEOPLE HE WANTS FOR SPECIFIC POSITIONS.

3. COMMENT: CLEAR FROM SPATE OF RUMORS THAT TRADITIONAL NIGERIAN NEGOTIATING PROCESS IS STILL UNDERWAY AND THAT DESIRED CONSENSUS ON COMPOSITION OF NEW FEC HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED. WE HAVE NO INDICATION OTHER THAN KADUNA REPORT THAT FIELD GRADE OFFICERS PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN SELECTION PROCESS, BUT FINAL COMPOSITION OF FEC WILL PRESUMABLY OFFER BETTER INSIGHT INTO MANNER OF ITS SELECTION.
CROSBY

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